

remember that in the long and medium ranges the fire of large portions of the firing line should be directed on certain stated targets, and that each man should not be allowed to fire at a separate target.

The difficulty lies in the selection of the objects to be fired at and in apportioning the different objects selected to different parts of the firing line. The means of effecting this latter point we shall deal with presently. But the general rule for the choice of objectives at any given moment is to choose such parts of the *leading* portions of such fractions of the enemy's troops as are the most dangerous for the time being, *i.e.*, which for the time being constitute the chief danger to be guarded against. The most advanced portions of the enemy are as a rule the most dangerous, as they draw the other portions after them. Hence they should be crushed. A frequent change of the objectives scatters the fire, so when you have chosen an objective, fire on it until you have destroyed it, or at least paralysed its action, for some time. Choose for preference objectives in front of your own men before selecting others to the right or left in order to assist the advance of neighboring troops. If the enemy's leading line is checked or offers a bad target, then choose suitable objectives to the right or left or in rear of his leading line. In cases of doubt choose as targets those objects which can be most easily hit. But as a rule the usual mark to aim at is the smoke of the enemy's rifles and artillery. In choosing objectives we must let the question of range (involving effect of fire and errors of estimation of range), atmospheric conditions, slopes of ground, etc., have their full weight. The officer commanding the firing line apportioning the targets to the different parts of the firing line during the pauses in the fire (see page 14).

(5). As regards the range and elevations and number of elevations to be used, much has already been said, but it cannot be too strongly remembered that the efficacy of all fire depends more on the range being known than on the individual skill of the men in firing. The worst shot may hit if the range is known, but the best shot will not hit if the range is wrongly estimated. Hence the value of carefully watching the effects of the fire, and of making any suitable corrections to the elevations employed.

The effects of the inclination of the line of sight and of atmospheric conditions must not be forgotten in ordering the elevation to be used.

In cases of doubt use too low than too high elevations. If either side is advancing, always undersight for the supposed range, and only alter your elevations by at least 100 yards at a time.

Against charging cavalry, only use the 400 yards elevation and aim at the hoofs of the horses.

(6). As regards the observation of the fire, we must remember that in a well-directed fire half the bullets will fall short, and consequently the dust produced by bullets 50 to 70 yards in advance of the object is not a proof that the fire is too short, though no dust *in a favorable soil for observation* is a certain indication that the fire is too long. If you are to one side of the men firing, say on the right of them, then a too short fire will appear to fall to